



ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

A3275-2

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 3, 1992 -- Railroad carloadings during the week ended August 29 dropped from year earlier levels for the seventh time in the past eight weeks, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

But Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's Economics and Finance Department, suggested that one should not read any longer-term trend into this one weekly figure.

"After all," stated Dr. Levine, "Hurricane Andrew was partially responsible for the decline in carloadings, with export grain and chemicals being especially hard hit."

Overall, carloadings totaled 339,811, down 2.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1991. Loadings were down 4.3 percent in the East and 0.8 percent in the West.

Intermodal traffic, which is not included in carloadings, rose 4.6 percent from the comparable 1991 week, totaling 137,111 trailers and containers. Railroads moved an estimated 21.6 billion ton-miles during the week ended August 29, down 0.5 percent the same week last year.

For the first 35 weeks of 1992, railroads originated 11,274,758 carloads of freight, up 1.4 percent from the first 35 weeks of 1991. Intermodal traffic for 35 weeks totaled 4,382,507 trailers and containers, up 7.6 percent from the 1991 total. Ton-miles totaled 708.6, up 3 percent from the first 35 weeks of 1991.

Railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of carloadings and 97 percent of intermodal volume.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29, 1992	COMPARISON WITH			
		SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	26,749	29,641	-9.8 %	27,329	-2.1 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,192	889	34.1	1,014	17.6
Metallic Ores	19,372	20,012	-3.2	19,358	0.1
Coal	130,732	133,344	-2.0	132,664	-1.5
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	15,198	14,721	3.2	15,650	-2.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	8,875	9,014	-1.5	8,438	5.2
Grain Mill Products	10,214	10,463	-2.4	10,200	0.1
Food & Kindred Products	9,093	9,442	-3.7	9,298	-2.2
Primary Forest Products	9,076	9,332	-2.7	9,193	-1.3
Lumber & Wood Products	6,000	6,228	-3.7	5,843	2.7
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,448	10,903	-4.2	9,825	6.3
Chemicals	27,940	30,707	-9.0	29,133	-4.1
Petroleum Products	5,757	5,265	9.3	6,028	-4.5
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,881	10,132	-2.5	9,907	-0.3
Coke	5,521	5,668	-2.6	5,508	0.2
Metals & Products	9,672	10,744	-10.0	9,299	4.0
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	17,647	16,490	7.0	16,966	4.0
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,538	8,339	2.4	8,904	-4.1
All Other Carloads	7,906	7,610	3.9	7,041	12.3
Total	339,811	348,944	-2.6 %	341,598	-0.5 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29, 1992			CUMULATIVE: 35 WEEKS ENDING AUGUST 29, 1992		
	1992	1991	CHANGE	1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	339,811	348,944	-2.6 %	11,274,758	11,122,672	1.4 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	67,488	68,509	-1.5	2,166,859	2,095,858	3.4
Containers	69,623	62,613	11.2	2,215,648	1,977,773	12.0
Total	137,111	131,122	4.6	4,382,507	4,073,631	7.6
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	21.6	21.7	-0.5 %	708.6	688.0	3.0 %

Cumulative ton-miles revised to reflect (1) reported ton-miles for 2nd Quarter 1992, (2) reclassification of the Florida East Coast as a Class II railroad (see Ex Parte No. 492), and (3) consolidation of Richmond, Fredricksburg, and Potomac into CSX Transportation